

Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Council

Meeting Minutes -DRAFT

November 19, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Meeting Held via Google Meet

Council Members Present	Ex-Officio Members Absent
Patricia (PJ) West – Department of Public Health - Chairperson	Representative Marti Anderson
Billie Marchik – University of Iowa	Senator Jim Carlin
Dr. Anthony Santiago - Iowa State University	Senator Pam Jochum
Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights	Representative Anne Osmundson
Shawna Johansen – Business Representative	
Alison Sidwell – Iowa Workforce Development	
Paige Buchanan - Department of Human Services	
Zebulon Beilke-McCallum – Domestic Violence Representative	
Stephanie Stebens - Citizen Representative – Vice Chairperson	
Dr. Michael Fleming – University of Northern Iowa	
Nicole Berensmann – Citizen Representative	
FaDSS Council Staff Present	FaDSS Council Staff Absent
Lorie Easter - Department of Human Rights	Donna Bura - Department of Human Rights
Page Eastin - Department of Human Rights	Angela Madison - Department of Human Services
Others Present	
Nicole Griesse - NEICAC	
Mindy Williamson - WCCA	Karli Schmelzer - NEICAC
Mallory Berkenpas - LSI	Doug Stodgel- Polk County
Sarah Nelson - WCCA	Laura Benson - Mid-Sioux Opportunity
Alisa Schlieff - UDMO	Amber Mercil - Four Oaks
Lisa Raya - CAEI	Julie Weber Davis - Four Oaks
Mindy Dolan - Operation Threshold	Jamie Swearingin - SCICAP
Cherie Swanson - YSS	Jennifer Huber - Sieda
Brian Dunn - Sieda	Janet Hamlin - WCCA
Shellie West - WCCA	Nancy Krause - LSI
Cathy Jager - WCAA	Mindy Clayton - MICA
Wendy Mueller - WCCA	Aftin Haman - YSS

Introductions

PJ West, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

- Quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda – PJ West, Chairperson

Motion

Zeb Beilke-McCallum moved that the agenda be approved. Stephanie Stebens seconded the motion.

Discussion

There was no discussion

Vote:

All council members voted aye. The agenda was approved.

Approval of June 23, 2020 and September 17, 2020 Council Minutes – PJ West, Chairperson (Enclosure Provided)

Motion

Stephanie Stebens moved that the minutes from the June 23, 2020 and September 17, 2020 Council meetings be approved. Zeb Beilke-McCallum seconded the motion.

Discussion

There was no discussion.

Vote

All council members voted aye. The June 23rd and September 17th minutes were approved.

Council Representative Updates

- PJ West shared that the family support programs that are funded by IDPH are still virtual. The state staff continue to check in regularly with contractors. Group based parent education is going well.
- Bill Brand shared that staff at DHR continue to work remotely. This continues to go well and everyone is getting the work done. Several programs in the DCAA are home visitation programs and they continue to adapt to the pandemic. Bill shared that Lana Shope, the Executive Director at ICAA, has resigned. Lana has been with ICAA for sixteen years.
- Zeb Beilke-McCallum shared that the work of providing domestic violence services during the pandemic has been very interesting. Local programs are open and provide service. There is a lot of work on policy and procedures across many programs to make sure basic needs are still being met. This pandemic continues to hit our most vulnerable populations.
- Dr. Michael Fleming shared that UNI is adjusting to the pandemic and are holding classes via a combination of in-person and online. They will finish the semester next week and will not return to classes until January 25. They are adjusting how to do practicums and internships.
- Dr. Anthony Santiago shared that ISU is making the same adjustments that Dr. Michael Fleming discussed. Iowa State Extension offices continue programming following CDC protocols. The bright spot is that they are still doing good things and getting programs out to the public.
- Billie Marchik shared that U of I is doing similar things as the others. Due to the pandemic, she would like to recognize that home visitation programs have been “pole vaulted” into the virtual

visits and stresses the need to learn from this because the virtual visits will most likely continue at some level.

IFDA Update – Julie Weber-Davis

Julie gave an update to the Council about IFDA. IFDA is in the planning stages for Day on the Hill. The day will look different due to COVID. They will plan a digital campaign. The committee will meet on November 20 to begin the planning.

Committee Work

Nomination Committee – Stephane Stebens

(Enclosure Provided)

Election of the Chair

Stephanie explained that every two years, the FaDSS council must elect a new Council Chair and Vice Chair (two year terms). The Nomination Committee met on October 27, 2020 to discuss considerations for nominations. The Committee brings forth the following recommendation.

The Nomination Committee recommends PJ West for Chair of the FaDSS Council. The term is through 11/2022.

Vote

All council members voted aye. Recommendation passed.

Discussion

PJ West accepted the nomination.

Election of Vice Chair

Stephanie Stebens explained that there were no nominations received for Vice Chair and opened the floor for discussion of nomination for a Vice Chair. Zeb Beilke-McCallum recommended Stephanie Stebens for Vice Chair of the FaDSS Council.

Motion/Vote

Zeb Beilke-McCallum made a motion to consider Stephanie Stebens as Vice Chair of the FaDSS Council. Michael Fleming seconded the motion. All council members voted aye. Motion passed.

Discussion

Stephanie Stebens accepted the nomination.

Council Member Vacancies

Lorie Easter shared there are three open seats 1.) Representative from the Department of Education. They are currently filling Tom Rendon's position and will designate that person. 2.) Business representative 3.) Citizen representative. The citizen representative is open due to Erica Ysquierdo term finishing on the council. The goal is to have the two seats filled by the March meeting.

Grant Review Committee

(Enclosures provided)

On behalf of the Grant Review Committee, Zeb Beilke-McCallum presented a PowerPoint to the Council. The PowerPoint outlines the work of the Committee since the June 2020 FaDSS Council meeting. The

PowerPoint was shared with council members and uploaded to the FaDSS website prior to the meeting along with the document titled, Grant Review Committee Update Summary.

Highlights of the presentation

- Discussed the Council took the first step of allocating funding based on need for the current year.
- At the June meeting, the Committee was charged with developing a 3-5 year plan that addresses racial equity and need, maintains a statewide program, and is sustainable for grantees. The Committee formed an advisory committee to help with the work of the committee.
- The Committee met 11 times which included four meetings with the advisory committee and two additional meetings with Executive Directors.
- The Committee organized ideas into three buckets: funding, capacity and program changes. (See slides for more information).
- The Committee will also address sharing Boone, Marshall and Story counties and exploring how to diversify funding sources.
- The Committee did not consider staying the same/doing nothing or not factoring need into the allocation of funding.
- Three potential options emerged during discussion with advisory group
 - Develop a funding formula and set slot rate to determine grantee capacity accordingly.
 - Develop a negotiation process to determine individual grantee capacity.
 - Merge services areas and then determine funding and capacity.
- Since the strategy of simply moving funds from lower need to higher need areas is not sustainable, the Committee has concluded that in order to meet the objectives, it is necessary to explore modifying services area boundaries. This conclusion was shared with the advisory committee on October 30th.
- On November 5th, DCAA received an email from Brian Dunn on behalf of the Executive Directors of community action agencies with FaDSS programs. The DCAA shared the email with the Grant Review Committee. The email stated that the Executive Directors are not supportive of the Committee exploring service boundary revisions and offered suggestions for other ideas. See slides or entire email.
- During the Grant Review Committee meetings on November 6th and 13th the email was discussed and it was concluded that the points and suggestions from the ICAA Directors were worthy of consideration but the strategies alone do not address the overall charge of the Committee. The Committee has actually discussed many of the suggestions but these suggestions alone do not get us to the racial equity and needs based goals that the Council set. The Committee believes that to get to the goals, we need to explore alterations to the existing service areas on the table.
- The process of looking at all the buckets (capacity, formula funding, and program changes) will be considered as we move forward.
- Any changes to service boundaries will not be implemented until the start of the next grant cycle that begins in FY23.
- Continued involvement of grantees in the Committee's work will be important.

Zeb Beilke-McCallum asked if there were any questions. There were not any questions. Zeb Beilke-McCallum formulated a motion for the council to consider.

Motion

Zeb Beilke-McCallum moved that the Grant Review Committee explore alterations to the existing FaDSS grantee service areas with the least amount of disruption possible while also exploring the solutions generated by the committee with input from the advisory group. Stephanie Stebens seconded the motion.

Discussion

PJ asked if there were any questions or discussion. Bill Brand thanked the Committee for all the hard work everyone has put into this. Bill believes that the motion Zeb Beilke-McCallum offered will bring in the considerations and the concerns of the many parties, including the concerns the ICAA Executive Directors outlined in the email. All of these ideas will continue to be addressed in the motion and if changes are made to boundaries, it will be with the least amount of disruption. Bill stated that the Grant Review Committee would continue to seek grantees input as we move forward to provide the best services to the families in the FaDSS program. Zeb stated it is always difficult to change a program, especially a program as long standing as the FaDSS program has been. What became clear (to Zeb) is that changing the program to better focus on need and with a racial equity lens will make the program stronger. This is a move to make a successful program continue to be successful.

Vote

All council members voted aye. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Covid-19 Updates – Page Eastin

FaDSS continues to be status quo with the policy and procedures that were put in place in March. Many staff or their families are currently affected by COVID -19. We continue to do virtual visits and do not see this changing any time soon. Page expressed appreciation to all grantees as they continue to provide services to families.

Mathematica Evaluation Update – Lorie Easter

Mathematica continues doing their best to keep things moving. What this means for grantees at this time is to continue to provide the highest level of services we can for the families and continue to document in the RAPTER system through the end of this month. November is the last month we will be collecting information on families that are in the program group of the study.

The implementation study is in draft form and DCAA has had a chance to review the report. Overall, the study finds that FaDSS is implemented as designed. The report has several key findings. A representative from Mathematica will present the report at the next FaDSS Council meeting.

Earlier this month Mathematica met separately with DCAA, Four Oaks and Polk and a few families to conduct COVID response interviews. This is to help them gain insight on the program's response to COVID. They will incorporate this information into the study.

Later next year they will finish the cross-site report and the impact report will come in early 2022.

As I talked about at the last meeting two grantees (WCCA and UDMO) that are in the coaching evaluation are helping another Mathematica research project in getting families to complete an in-depth survey about the impact of COVID. WCCA and UDMO are giving families that were employed in March a flyer that makes them aware of the interviews. Families will be provided with a \$60 gift card for participating in the interviews. We think this is a great opportunity for families to tell their stories. We did have some difficulty getting the 7-10 families from just these two grantees so we added Sieda.

2020 FaDSS Annual Report – Lorie Easter

Lorie shared that the FY20 Annual Report has just been finalized. The report will be sent to FaDSS Council members and uploaded on the FaDSS website soon. At the next meeting, we will go over the report.

Iowa FaDSS Demonstration – Page Eastin

Page provided a demonstration of the enhancements that have been made to Iowa FaDSS. These enhancements were implemented on July 1. These enhancements move the system to a case management system in addition to the data collection system.

PJ West stated that the system looks great and wondered who manages the system. Page Eastin shared that DCAA contracts with Public Consultant Group (PCG) to build and manage the system. When we make updates, we have grantees test the changes. DCAA works very closely with PCG and are always looking at how we can improve the system. Zeb Beilke-McCallum was curious about the head of the household set up and when there is a break up of a family. Page Eastin explained how the program would do this in the system and Lorie discussed the ability to run different reports when there is a change in the head of the household.

Other Business

Brian Dunn shared that one of the biggest concerns from the ICAA Directors is that the Council is going to move a significant amount of funding from rural areas to urban areas. He believes even with the discussions that happened today and motion approved it is foregone. He appreciates the FaDSS Council's confidence in the work of the Committee but he is disappointed that the decision of this magnitude did not have any real discussion or questions before the motion. If he or his staff are asked to participate in the future work, he may not push hard to engage and do so. He knows that the Committee is charged with very hard decisions but he thinks this is going to have a significant impact on the agencies that serve rural Iowa and rural Iowa itself. He shared his concerns with the Grant Review Committee but wanted to share with the FaDSS Council too. He appreciates the Council allowing him the opportunity to express his concerns.

PJ West thanked Brian.

Adjournment – PJ West, Chairperson

Motion

Dr. Michael Fleming motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Zeb Beilke-McCallum seconded the motion.

Vote

All Council members voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.